



Holyhead
Teach What Matters

No Platform Policy for Schools

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Signed by:

Principal

Date: 24 October 2024

Chair of Governors

24 October 2024
Date:



Details of the Changes

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NO PLATFORM POLICY FOR SCHOOLS

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NO PLATFORM POLICY FOR SCHOOLS

Responding to speakers promoting messages of hatred and intolerance

1. Introduction

Holyhead School fully recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding children. We are clear that the threat of extremism and the radicalisation of young people are viewed as safeguarding concerns. This policy therefore works in accordance with the Holyhead School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Our "No Platform Policy" aims to ensure that Holyhead School balances the right of freedom of speech against the potential use of its facilities for the promotion of extremist ideological, religious, or political beliefs. In this context beliefs are considered to be extremist if they include the expression of racist or fascist views; if they incite hatred based on religious interpretation, ideology, or belief; or if they promote discrimination on the grounds of political opinion, age, colour, disability, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, race, religion or sexual orientation.

This model policy is based on the **No Platform Policy of Birmingham City Council**, which can be found at:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/18619/bcc_no_platform_policy

This provides further information and, in particular, Appendix 1 has guidelines on conducting research into the background of potential speakers.

We understand and engage with the promotion of fundamental British values:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

The purposes of this policy are to:

- i) Outline the prevention strategies Holyhead School has implemented in order to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- ii) Outline the expectations Holyhead School has for students' individual conduct regarding extremist views and behaviours; and the roles and responsibilities of students, staff, parents and governors.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 Extremism as defined in the Prevent and Counter Extremism Strategy by Government is the:

vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This includes calling for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

- 2.2 Not every part of this definition must be satisfied for a particular individual or organisation to be regarded as extremist.

Prevent is part of the Government counter-terrorism strategy. It is designed to tackle the problem of terrorism and extremism at its roots; thus preventing people from supporting terrorism or becoming terrorists or followers of extremist views themselves.

- 2.3 The Equality Act 2010 protects nine individual characteristics;

- o Age
- o Disability
- o Gender reassignment
- o Marriage and civil partnership
- o Pregnancy and maternity
- o Race
- o Religion or belief
- o Sex
- o Sexual orientation

All members and employees of the school have a duty to not unlawfully discriminate against anyone based on any of these characteristics.

- 2.4 The Equality Act 2010 also requires the school to have due regard to:

2.4.1 Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;

2.4.2 Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and

2.4.3 Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

For the purpose of this policy:

- 2.5 The Terrorism Act 2000 establishes a list of "proscribed organisations". These are organisations that the Home Secretary believes are concerned in terrorism. It is an offence to belong to a proscribed organisation or to invite support for a proscribed organisation. This includes arranging, managing or addressing a meeting that is intended to support the activities of a proscribed organisation.

The Terrorism Act 2000³ makes it a criminal offence to:

- 2.5.1 Belong, or profess to belong, to a proscribed organisation (section 11 of

the Act);

2.5.2 Invite support for a proscribed organisation (and the support is not, or is not restricted to the provision of money or other property) (section 12(1));

2.5.3 Arrange, manage or assist in arranging or managing a meeting in the knowledge that the meeting is to support or further the activities of a proscribed organisation, or is to be addressed by a person who belongs or professes to belong to a proscribed organisation (section 12(2)); or to address a meeting if the purpose of the address is to encourage support for, or further the activities of, a proscribed organisation (section 12(3)); and

2.5.4 Wear clothing or carry or display articles in public in such a way or in such circumstances as to arouse reasonable suspicion that an individual is a member or supporter of the proscribed organisation (section 13).

2.6 Section 38b of the Terrorism Act 2000 states that an individual has committed an offence if s/he has information which is known or believes might be of material assistance in preventing another person from committing an act of terrorism or securing apprehension, prosecution or conviction of another person for an offence involving the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism and s/he fails to disclose that information to the police as soon as is reasonably possible.

3. Principles

The principles on which this policy is based are -

- No person may use the facilities of Holyhead School to express or promote extremist ideological, religious, or political views.
- No person may use the facilities of Holyhead School to express or promote discriminatory views in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010.
- Holyhead School will not allow the use of its facilities by any group or organisation that is proscribed by HM Government.

4. Channel Panel and The Prevent Strategy

Channel, a key element of the Home Office's Prevent strategy, is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. As a school we will work with the Channel Panel, local law enforcement, and religious and community leaders, to identify children vulnerable to radicalisation and to stamp out extremism if it arises.

This includes identifying students:

- Displaying feelings of grievance and injustice.

- Feeling under threat.
- Searching for identity, meaning and belonging.
- Who have a desire for status amongst their peers.
- Who have a desire for excitement and adventure.
- Displaying a need to dominate and control others.
- Who have a susceptibility to indoctrination.
- Displaying a radical desire for political or moral change.
- Who are susceptible to opportunistic involvement.
- Who have family or friends involved in extremism.
- Susceptible to being influenced or controlled by a group.
- With relevant mental health issues.

5. Reporting, Referral and Responding to Events Process ||

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- Prevent Leads/SPOC identified to work with students and staff around the Prevent Strategy.
- Staff and students within the school know who the SPOC is.
- An audit trail/process exists for reports, concerns and or referrals.
- The internal referral process for students who are believed to be at risk of radicalisation into extremism is through the school's electronic safeguarding reporting system.
- A decision will be made upon receipt of the referral to determine whether a further referral should be made to the Channel Panel via West Midlands Police.
- The SPOC and key staff know who to contact and how to refer a concern to the Channel Panel via West Midlands Police.
- The school is aware of impact on students in the aftermath of an event locally, nationally or internationally and are prepared to respond. In the aftermath of an event which is deemed to have an effect on staff and students, the school may undertake whole school, year group, class-based or individual sessions to promote opportunities of discussion and support. This also extends to the personal support of governors and staff most affected by incidents.

6. Use of ICT and Online Safety

Holyhead School recognises that evolving technologies increase the risk of accessing and/or promoting extremist materials, websites and/or viewpoints. This school has in place appropriate filtering and monitoring systems, which are updated on a regular basis and keep students safe from potentially harmful and inappropriate content and contact online while at school, including terrorist and extremist material. The school blocks access to potentially dangerous sites and, where possible, prevents the downloading of potentially inappropriate or dangerous files. The school ensures that any online safety incidents are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy.

7. Electronic Communication

- 7.1 Holyhead School will not allow the use of the school website, IT facilities or information management processes to:

- o Promote discriminatory views in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010
- o Promote or glorify terrorism
- o Promote extreme ideological, religious, or political beliefs.

7.2 The school has a right to exercise control over all activities on its IT facilities, including electronic communications associated with the name of the school and the use of school equipment to access external resources. This includes the right to monitor the use of school resources.

Written and Printed Communication

7.3 Holyhead School has the right to exercise control over the content of any written or printed material that identifies itself as associated with the school. It will not allow the use of its facilities in the production of such material, or permit the use of its name, or of any identifying marks relating to the school, in such material, if that material appears to

- o Promote discriminatory views in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010
- o Promote or glorify terrorism
- o Promote extreme ideological, religious, or political beliefs.

8. Use of Buildings, Facilities and Property

In deciding whether to allow any group or organisation to make use of its buildings, facilities and property Holyhead School will take into account the views, policies, and objectives of that group or organisation and may refuse on the grounds that these are incompatible with the policies and objectives of the school. In particular, access will be refused if it appears likely that the proposed activity would promote extremist ideological, political, or religious beliefs.

9. Accountability

The Governing Body of the school has ultimate responsibility for this policy. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Principal.

Holyhead School will use the **No Platform Policy of Birmingham City Council** for guidance on conducting research into the background of potential speakers, consulting other schools, other organisations, using search engines, assessing the reliability of information found, identifying risks to community cohesion, etc.

10. Training

The school's SPOC is Prevent trained. The SPOC attends additional Prevent training and cascades updates to staff, SLT and Governors. Additional staff are appropriately trained in relation to their role and members of SLT and the Local Academy Governing Board have been Prevent trained.

12. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in the Autumn term of 2025.